



BEFORE

A barrier to migrating fish in Nesbit Creek, Cowlitz County



AFTER

An easy passage for fish

Family Forest Fish Passage Program

2004 Implementation Report

A Cost-Share
Program
for Small Forest
Landowners
to Improve Fish
Passage



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



Interagency Committee for
OUTDOOR RECREATION
**SALMON RECOVERY
FUNDING BOARD**



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



Mel and Pat Galivan discuss the installation of their new fish passable culvert. The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group was the project sponsor.



Workers position a bridge on footings. The Cowlitz Conservation District completed this project on Beaver Creek 600 feet above the confluence with the Coweeman River, opening 6.7 miles of habitat to coho salmon and cutthroat and steelhead trout.

// For the first time in a long time we have a simple program to enroll landowners, a straightforward funding process, and projects get on the ground within a year. //

DARIN HOUP

DISTRICT MANAGER FOR
THE COWLITZ AND
WAHKIAKUM CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

// The strength of this program is that it takes a watershed approach and focuses on addressing the highest priority projects first. //

JOHN MANKOWSKI

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY LEAD



One of the most effective ways of restoring declining salmon and trout populations is to remove barriers that prevent fish from reaching upstream habitat.

The goal is to have all fish passage barriers on state and private forestlands corrected by 2016. Because eliminating fish passage barriers can be costly, especially for the family forest

landowner, the 2003 Legislature established a cost-share program—the Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

Three state agencies, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) work together to implement the program. Under the program:

Worst Go First, Project Priorities

Once a year, projects are prioritized and those providing the most benefit to fish are funded. Lower priority projects remain in the program and may be funded once high priority projects are completed and money is available.

Projects are prioritized based on:

- The number and location of other upstream or downstream barriers.
- Amount and quality of fish habitat opened by the project.
- The number of salmon and trout species benefiting from barrier correction.
- Project cost.

- The state provides 75-100 percent of the cost of correcting small forest landowners' fish barriers.

- Small forest landowners enrolling in the program are required to fix their barriers only if financial assistance is available from the state.

- Barriers are prioritized and repaired on a worst-first basis in the watershed.



For the first funding cycle the average project cost \$33,190 and opened 1.62 miles of habitat.



Local groups play a key role in evaluating projects and providing this information to the Fish Passage Team. Their continued capacity is critical to the success of the program.

First Year Projects Funded

PROJECT LOCATION	FUNDED SITES	ESTIMATED COST	STREAM MILES OF HABITAT TO BE OPENED
CLALLAM	1	\$17,225	0.37
COWLITZ/WAHKIAKUM	3	\$88,827	9.27
FERRY	2	\$73,346	2.56
GRAYS HARBOR/LEWIS	12	\$174,850	26.52
THURSTON	3	\$140,130	4.64
KITSAP	5	\$254,047	8.37
MASON	4	\$137,488	3.77
PEND OREILLE	2	\$85,975	2.14
PIERCE	1	\$34,175	0.25
WHATCOM	3	\$61,000	0.54
TOTAL	36	\$1,067,063	58.37 MILES

In the first year, the program accepted applications for 104 projects. In April 2004, 36 projects were funded. These projects will open up 58.37 miles of habitat.

Accomplishments

The Legislature provided \$2 million to start the program for the 2003-2005 biennium. In April 2004, the first year of the program, \$1.06 million was awarded to 36 projects. By the end of summer, 26 projects had been completed. The remaining 10 projects will be completed in the 2005 summer construction season.

Projects ranged from road abandonment and culvert removal on small streams to replacing blocking culverts with bridges over larger streams. The enthusiasm of landowners and the can-do attitude of local sponsors contributed to many successfully constructed projects in the first construction season.

Expedited permitting and advance design work also were contributing factors.

- The average cost of a project was \$33,190.
- The average amount of habitat opened per project was 1.62 miles.
- The total habitat miles opened during first funding cycle was 58.37 miles.
- Fifteen different organizations and landowners sponsored projects in the first year of the program.
- The program accepted applications for 104 projects in the first funding cycle (November 2003 to January 2004).
- Projects opened habitat for fish that are listed (under the Federal Endangered Species Act) as threatened with extinction, as well as for numerous resident fish.

The Second Round of Funding

The Legislature directed DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office to search for additional funds for the program. More than \$400,000 in additional funds for the program have been secured by partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Landowner Incentive Program. Project-specific grants are also sought by partnering with local sponsors to apply for these funds.

Applications for 144 projects were submitted by the June 30, 2004 deadline for the second round of funding. The Family Forest Fish Passage Program will have about \$1.24 million to allocate in January 2005 for the second round.

Local Groups Key to the Program

The key to the program's success is the evaluation and field work completed by local groups and landowners, including the 14 nonprofit regional fisheries enhancement groups and many conservation districts. Program success depends on continued staff capacity at the local level.

Correcting a fish barrier is often a complicated and time-consuming process. Project management must be conducted by organizations or landowners familiar with grant management, state and federal permits, and fish barrier correction. The entity managing a funded project is called a sponsor. A sponsor may be:

- ▶ A conservation district, regional fisheries enhancement group, local fish-related non-profit organization, tribe, etc., or
- ▶ The landowner, if he or she wishes to manage all aspects of the project.

Working with a sponsor minimizes a landowner's work. Sponsor organizations manage the project design, permitting, construction oversight, billing, and grant management for the landowner.

Fish Passage Team

The Fish Passage Team, which manages the day-to-day program implementation, is made up of representatives from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Through the team, the agencies work cooperatively on all aspects of the program. DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office is the main point of contact for program information. This office helps landowners, provides outreach, coordinates additional funding sources, and decides which projects receive funding. WDFW evaluates and ranks projects and provides technical assistance on project design. SRFB administers the funding. The focus of the Fish Passage Team is to provide a coordinated approach for the direction of the program.

// I am pleased to see the link being made between the state and local groups in delivering a program that works for the small landowner. //

SHERRY FOX

FOREST AND FISH POLICY
COORDINATOR WITH THE
WASHINGTON FARM FORESTRY
ASSOCIATION

Local Project Sponsors

Listed below are the project sponsors for the first year (2004) of the Family Forest Fish Passage Program and the number of project sites in parentheses:

Nooksack Salmon
Enhancement Association (3)
South Puget Sound Salmon
Enhancement Group (6)
Mid-Sound Salmon
Enhancement Group (1)
Chehalis Basin Fisheries
Task Force (3)
Hood Canal Salmon
Enhancement Group (2)
PB Lumber (7)
Colville Confederated Tribes (1)
Fisheries Consultants (1)
Lewis County Conservation
District (2)
Cowlitz Conservation District (3)
Wahkiakum Conservation District (1)
Pend Oreille Conservation District (2)
Kitsap Conservation District (2)
Ferry Conservation District (1)
Clallam Conservation District (1)

How Do I Get More Information?

Visit our Web site:
www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo/fffpp/

Program Partners

PROGRAM OUTREACH

**Department of Natural Resources
Small Forest Landowner Office**
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
Contact: Scott Potter (360) 902-1404

PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING

**Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Management Program**
600 Capitol Way
Olympia, WA 98501-1091
Contact: Brett DeMond (360) 902-2550

PROGRAM FUNDING

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Natural Resources Building
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
Contact: Brian Abbott (360) 902-2638

LANDOWNER ORGANIZATION

The above agencies are responsible for implementing the program. The Washington Farm Forestry Association joins the agencies on a steering committee.

**Washington Farm
Forestry Association**
PO Box 7663
Olympia, WA 98507
<http://www.wafarmforestry.com/>
Contact: Sherry Fox (360) 606-5511